Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: MANILA 11436, 11711

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1. PROPOSED SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS ON FOOD, ENERGY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NARCOTICS, ETC. IN ADDITION TO DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION REFLECT INSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF DIFFERENT US DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUS IN THESE AREAS. SINCE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPERTISE IN FIELD OF ENERGY, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS, WE PROPOSED TO INCLUDE A PRESENTATION BY THEM

TO THE ASEAN MEETING AS SEPARATE ITEM FROM DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. SAME CONSIDERATION GUIDED US FOR SUGGESTING SEPARATE PRESENTATION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHERE OES BUREAU OF DEPARTMENT, WHICH REPORTS TO THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HAS KEY ROLE IN PREPARATION OF UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THEREBY IN EVOLVING US POLICIES TOWARD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD. WE INTEND TO HAVE BOTH PRESENTATIONS TO BE BRIEF AND IN GENERAL TERMS TO LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. THE US IS PREPARED TO ESTABLISH AN ASEAN-US ENERGY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP IF THERE IS

ASEAN INTEREST AND WE ARE RECEPTIVE TO A SIMILAR APPROACH TO DEALING WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHEREBY WE WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS TOWARD EXPLORING HOW WE CAN BEST COOPERATE IN UPGRADING ASEAN'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

2. SECRETARY BERGLAND WILL TALK PRIMARILY ABOUT US FOOD POLICY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND SUCH MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE IT AS THE ASEAN RICE RESERVE PROPOSAL AS WELL AS THE IWA. HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS BRIEFLY USE OF PL 480, INCLUDING TITLE III, FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. HE WILL DESCRIBE POSSIBLE USDA PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS TO ASSIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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IN ESTABLISHING FOOD RESERVES OR OTHER AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- 3. REGARDING SECRETARY VELASCO'S PRESENCE ON THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION, HE IS NATURALLY WELCOME TO COME. BUT EMBASSY SHOULD CALL TO HIS AND SECRETARY ROMULO'S ATTENTION OUR EXPECTATION THAT US PRESENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WILL BY NECESSITY BE BRIEF AND GENERAL IN NATURE AND LET HIM DECIDE HIS COMING IN THAT LIGHT. IF HE WISHES TO HAVE BILATERALS WITH SENIOR US OFFICIALS, WE TOLD AWC THE OTHER DAY THAT SUCH WISHES SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED SOONEST SO THAT AVAILABILITY OF US OFFICIALS CAN BE ASCERTAINED.
- 4. RE AGENDA ITEM 13, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH ASEAN TO DEVELOP A JOINT INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR EXISTING BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. PROJECTS DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROGRAM WOULD BE DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT AND ENHANCE EXISTING ASEAN INTRA-REGIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE PROJECT SUGGESTIONS.

WE WOULD ALSO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE JOINT ASEAN-US MECHANISM TO SET PROJECTS, TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND TO ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT PROGRAMS DEVELOPED UNDER THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. WE ARE PREPARED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO COST SHARING IDEAS FOR EXCHANGE PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY THE JOINT ASEAN-US MECHANISM. ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED TO AMBASSADOR MANALO DURING MIKE YAKI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR IN THE COMPANY OF MR. GEBER JULY 17.

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